THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Friday, the 1st September 1961.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Ceylon Tamils

* 324 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation with regard to the recent agitation by the Ceylon Tamils; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN (on behalf of the HON. THE CHIEF MINISTER) : (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) Does not arise.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Is it not a fact that some representatives from the Ceylon Tamil area have come here and met the Hon. Ministers of this State and represented that this Government should represent their case to the Government of India?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, this is a matter within the competence of the Government of India, being external relations. If people merely come and talk with the Ministers, it cannot be an official discussion. Therefore, there is nothing which this Government could do.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Was there any representation from the public of this State to take up this matter with the Centre so that they might approach the Ceylon Government to settle the matter amicably?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, it is not part of the duty of this State Government to make representations to the Centre. They administer the departments in their charge and the Government of India administer the departments in their charge. This is a matter which is in charge of the Government of India.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, the people affected are Tamilians. Is it not our obligation morally at least to take this up with the Centre and to see that something is done?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : This is an argument and not a question.

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DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Is it not a fact that many Tamilians from Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli emigrated to Ceylon surreptitiously for want of employment in the State?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Again, Sir, I cannot answer this question because this Government have no information on this matter.

Industrial Estate

* 325 *Q.*—SRI M. ETHIRAJALU : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to establish an Industrial Estate at Vridhachalam; and

(*b*) if so, the stage at which the matter now stands?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) A scheme for the establishment of an industrial estate for ceramic industry at Vridhachalam, South Arcot district, has been sanctioned by the Government recently.

SRI K. V. RAMASWAMY : இந்தத் தொழிற்பேட்டைகளைக் கோவையில் நிறுவுவதாக இருக்கிறதே, அது விஷயமாகத் தகவல் தெரியுமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : அங்கே வைப்பதாக ஒரு யோசனை இருக்கிறது.

SRI K. V. RAMASWAMY : எந்த இடத்தில் என்று சொல்ல முடியுமா ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : இப்போது வந்திருக்கிற அவர்களுடைய கோரிக்கைப்படி கோவையில் வைப்பதாக இருக்கிறது.

State Transport Department

* 326 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any driving experience has been prescribed as a qualification for appointment as drivers in the State Transport Department, and if so, what it is;

(*b*) whether there has been any reduction recently in the period of driving experience for the above appointment; and

(*c*) if so, what it is and the reasons for such reduction?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) to (*c*) Prior to 14th June 1961, a candidate for appointment as driver in the Madras State Transport Department should have three years experience in driving heavy motor vehicles, amongst other qualifications. This requirement has since been reduced to 18 months, as difficulties were experienced in getting the required number of